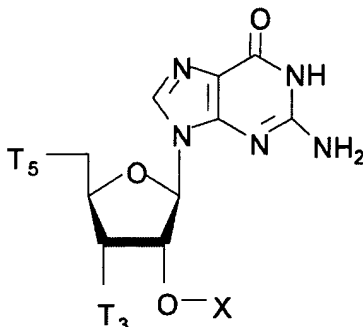


1 ~~8~~. (amended three times) A compound having the structure:



wherein

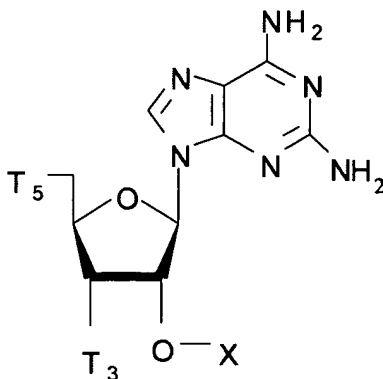
X is R₁-(R₂)_n;

R₁ is C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, or C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl and n is 1 to [about] 6;

R₂ is halogen, nitro, nitroso, nitrile, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, O-alkyl, S-alkyl, NH-alkyl, N-dialkyl, O-aryl, S-aryl, NH-aryl, O-aralkyl, S-aralkyl, NH-aralkyl, imidazole, N-phthalimido, azido, hydrazino, hydroxylamino, isocyanato, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfide, disulfide, silyl, aryl, heterocycle, carbocycle, intercalator, reporter molecule, conjugate, polyamine, polyamide, polyalkylene glycol, or polyether [, a group that enhances the pharmacodynamic properties of oligonucleotides, or a group that enhances the pharmacokinetic properties of oligonucleotides]; and

either one of T₃ and T₅ is OH, a hydroxyl blocking group, phosphate or an activated phosphate group and the other of T₃ and T₅ is a nucleotide or both T₃ and T₅ are nucleotides.

~~2~~ 18. (amended three times) A compound having the structure:



wherein

X is $R_1-(R_2)_n$;

R_1 is C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_4-C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{20} alkynyl;

R_2 is halogen, nitro, nitroso, nitrile, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, O-alkyl, S-alkyl, NH-alkyl, N-dialkyl, O-aryl, S-aryl, NH-aryl, O-aralkyl, S-aralkyl, NH-aralkyl, imidazole, N-phthalimido, azido, hydrazino, hydroxylamino, isocyanato, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfide, disulfide, silyl, aryl, heterocycle, carbocycle, intercalator, reporter molecule, conjugate, polyamine, polyamide, polyalkylene glycol, or polyether [, a group that enhances the pharmacodynamic properties of oligonucleotides, or a group that enhances the pharmacokinetic properties of oligonucleotides];

either one of T_3 and T_5 is OH, a hydroxyl blocking group, phosphate or an activated phosphate group and the other of T_3 and T_5 is a nucleotide, or both T_3 and T_5 are nucleotides; and n is an integer from 1 to [about] 6.

51. (amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is C_3-C_{20} alkyl and n is [0] 1.

52. (amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is C_4-C_{20} alkenyl and n is [0] 1.

7/ 19. (amended) The compound of claim 8 wherein R_1 is C_2-C_{20} alkynyl and n is [0] 1.

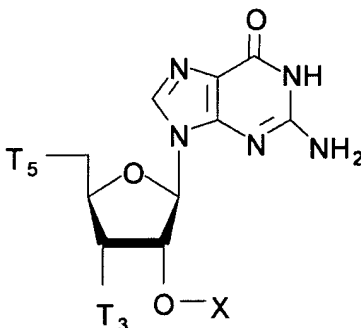
8/ 20. (amended) The compound of claim 8 wherein R_1 is C_1-C_{20} alkyl and n is 1 to [about] 6.

9/ 21. (amended) The compound of claim 8 wherein R_1 is C_2-C_{20} alkenyl and n is 1 to [about] 6.

10/ 22. (amended) The compound of claim 8 wherein R_1 is C_2-C_{20} alkynyl and n is 1 to [about] 6.

E3 13/ 23. (amended) The compound of claim [9] 10 wherein R_1 is C_2-C_{20} alkynyl.

14/ 24. (amended) A compound having the structure:



wherein

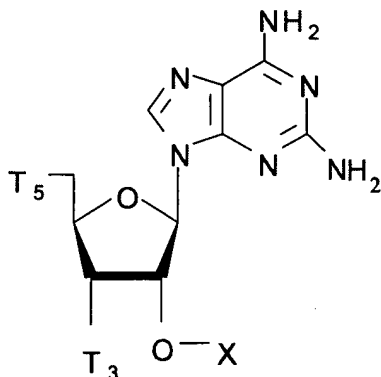
X is $R_1-(R_2)_n$;

R_1 is $[C_3-C_{20}]$ C_4-C_{20} alkyl, C_4-C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{20} alkynyl and n is 0; or R_1 is C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_2-C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{20} alkynyl and n is 1 to [about] 6;

R_2 is hydroxyl, thiol, keto, carboxyl, or amino; and

either one of T_3 and T_5 is OH, a hydroxyl blocking group, phosphate or an activated phosphate group and the other of T_3 and T_5 is a nucleotide or both T_3 and T_5 are nucleotides.

15 ~~21~~. (amended) A compound having the structure:



wherein

X is $R_1-(R_2)_n$;

R_1 is C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_4-C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{20} alkynyl;

R_2 is hydroxyl, thiol, keto, carboxyl, or amino;

either one of T_3 and T_5 is OH, a hydroxyl blocking group, phosphate or an activated phosphate group and the other of T_3 and T_5 is a nucleotide, or both T_3 and T_5 are nucleotides; and n is an integer from 0 to [about] 6.

REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, 17-22, and 25-27 have been amended herein. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 9, 10 and 15-27 remain pending.

Claims 9-10 and 15-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection in view of the amendments to the claims and the following comments.

Claims 17-19 are asserted to be vague and indefinite because there allegedly is no antecedent basis in claim 9 for "n" being zero. Applicants have amended claims 17-19 to define n as